

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, ZA, US, OVIP (KAUNDA, KENNETH)

SUBJECT: ZAMBIAN PRESS PLAY AND COMMENTARY ON PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

REF: LUSAKA 0713

1. SUNDAY AND MONDAY PAPERS HEADLINED ARTICLES ON PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON AND HIS REMARKS AT WHITE HOUSE DINNER. SUNDAY TIMES, REPORTING PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL, QUOTED DEPUTY SECY INGERSOLL'S DESCRIPTION OF VISIT AS "EXTREMELY SIGNIFICANT". MONDAY PAPERS FOCUS ON KAUNDA WHITE HOUSE DINNER REMARKS UNDER SUCH HEADLINES AS "KK LASHES AMERICA" (TIMES) AND "COME OFF THAT FENCE, KAUNDA URGES US" (MAIL). TIMES IN PARTICULAR EMPHASIZED PRESIDENT'S "DISMAY" AT US POLICIES TOWARD AFRICA AND HIS "REBUKE" TO US FOR "GIVING PSYCHOLOGICAL COMFORT TO FORCES OF EVIL." MAIL FEATURED KAUNDA PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS THAT AFRICA "INSULTED" BY BY THIS APPOINTMENT. PRESIDENT FORD'S WHITE HOUSE DINNER TOAST ALSO PROMINENTLY MENTIONED IN BOTH PAPERS. ONLY MAIL MENTIONED KAUNDA'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT THAT HE WAS HAPPY WITH FORD/KISSINGER STAND ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. MONDAY TIMES EDITORIAL CARPED THAT USG "AGAIN SNUBBED" PRESIDENT KAUNDA BECAUSE NEITHER PRESIDENT FORD, VICE PRES
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ROCKERFELLER, NOR SECY KISSINGER WAS AT ANDREWS TO MEET KAUNDA

ON HIS ARRIVAL. INSTEAD, RECEPTION DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY INDIVIDUAL CARRYING "OBSCURE RANK" OF DEPUTY SECY OF STATE AND THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL. EDITORIAL ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT "FOR TIME BEING ZAMBIAN PUBLIC DO NOT EXPECT AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION TO BE WARMER TOWARD ZAMBIA THAN THEY HAVE BEEN TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON THIS OCCASION...ON CRUCIAL PROBLEMS OF LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA, US AND ZAMBIA STAND ON OPPOSITE SIDES." AS FOR REAL ISSUES, TIMES CONCLUDED, PRESIDENT KAUNDA LOST NO TIME IN GETTING ACROSS TO FORD AND KISSINGER WITH "BRUTAL FRANKNESS" AFRICA'S CASE ON LIBERATION.

3. COMMENT: ZAMBIAN PRESS, ESPECIALLY TIMES, IS EDITED BY INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE LONG BEEN HYPERCRITICAL OF US POLICIES IN AFRICA. IMBALANCED REPORTING AND COMMENTARY BY THEM ON PRESIDENT'S VISIT AND ON US-ZAMBIAN RELATIONS IS UNFORTUNATE BUT NOT SURPRISING, ESPECIALLY IN ABSENCE WITH PRESIDENTIAL PARTY OF THOSE OFFICIALS WHO MIGHT HAVE PROVIDED MORE POSITIVE GUIDANCE TO LOCAL PRESS.
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